

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 131544
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DPSULLIVAN:CCH
APPROVED BY P - MR. NEWSOM
EA:RBOAKLEY
AIDASIA:BDUPUIS
ACTION:MKING
S/S-0 :JETHYDEN

-----095989 240507Z /17

P 232320Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 131544

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ID

SUBJECT: AMB. ASHARI CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY: PEACE CORPS

1. DURING COURSE AMB. ASHARI'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM MAY 18 (SEPTTEL), ASHARI RAISED SUBJECT OF PEACE CORPS. NOTING THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN RAISED BY VICE PRESIDENT, ASHARI SAID SUHARTO NONETHELESS WISHED HIM MAKE CLEAR THAT SUHARTO DOES NOT REJECT ASSISTANCE IN TECHNICAL FIELDS BY EXPERTS IN INDONESIA, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE AND POSSIBLY IN DRY RICE CULTIVATION, AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT USE THE NAME PEACE CORPS. IF ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE IN THAT FRAMEWORK, GOI WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL. DAS OAKLEY NOTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT HAD INTENDED RAISE MATTER IN VIEW PEACE CORPS INTEREST IN WORKING IN INDONESIA, ALTHOUGH IN EVENT THERE DID NOT
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PROVE TO BE TIME TO DISCUSS IT, BUT THAT VICE PRESIDENT HAD NOT INTENDED TO PRESS FOR A DECISION BUT MERELY TO INDICATE THIS COULD BE POSSIBILITY IF GOI INTERESTED.

2. UNDER SECRETARY NOTED HIS AWARENESS OF SENSITIVITY IN INDONESIA CONCERNING PEACE CORPS NAME BUT STATED HE ALSO AWARE OF INSTANCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF ASSOCIATION IN

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE IN WHICH PCV'S HAD BEEN ABLE WORK SUCCESSFULLY. WHILE PEACE CORPS USUALLY LIKES TO HAVE

LARGE AND IDENTIFIABLE PROGRAMS, IN SOME PLACES VOLUNTEERS HAVE GONE IN SMALL GROUPS AND IN SOME CASES IN ASSOCIATION WITH USAID. UNDER SECRETARY SAID HIS INITIAL ADVICE TO PEACE CORPS DURING HIS TIME IN INDONESIA HAS BEEN THAT IF PEACE CORPS WENT TO GOI WITH A LIST OF POSITIONS IT COULD FILL IN EXISTING PROGRAMS ALREADY UNDERWAY, THIS COULD PROBABLY BE HANDLED. ASHARI AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH GROUP WOULD USE PEACE CORPS NAME. UNDER SECRETARY SAID THAT, IF HE JUDGED CORRECTLY, WHAT CONCERNED THE PRESIDENT WAS HIGH VISIBILITY, SUCH AS A PROMINENTLY MARKED PEACE CORPS BUILDING, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER, IF PEACE CORPS COULD GO IN WITHOUT THE EXTERNAL TRAPPINGS, THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. ASHARI STATED THAT UNFORTUNATELY THE NAME PEACE CORPS WAS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE BUT REITERATED THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PRESENCE OF VOLUNTEERS.

3. UNDER SECRETARY STATED THAT WE APPRECIATED THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE ON THIS MATTER. HE SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE PEACE CORPS WAS WILLING, WE MIGHT ASK IF THE GOI WAS WILLING TO RECEIVE SOMEONE JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE PROSPECT. DAS OAKLEY STATED THAT WE WOULD TALK TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ACTION AND ARRANGE TO GET AMBASSADOR ASHARI
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TOGETHER WITH HER. ASHARI AGAIN NOTED THAT FOOD PRODUCTION IS STILL FIRST PRIORITY AND MAIN CHALLENGE FOR INDONESIA AND THAT DRY RICE IN PARTICULAR IS A PROBLEM AND AN AREA IN WHICH EXPERT HELP COULD BE USEFUL.

4. WE ARE ARRANGING A MEETING BETWEEN MS. KING AND AMBASSADOR ASHARI. CHRISTOPHER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: EA:JBADER

APPROVED BY: EA:JBADER

S/S-O:KDSCOTT

-----102858 241654Z /43

O 241600Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 9710

S E C R E T STATE 131544

EXDIS FOR ASST SECY HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEN ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 131544, ACTION JAKARTA 23 MAY:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 131544

EXDIS

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TAGS: EAID, ID

SUBJECT: AMB. ASHARI CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY: PEACE CORPS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 may 1978
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Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 2596974
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: EAID, ID, US, PC
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